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Rewald Probably Won't Take Stand Due to Ruling

By Charles Mamminger
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Spectators have been eagerly waiting for the star witness in the Ronald Rewald federal fraud trial to take the stand.

Now it appears, however, that the witness — Rewald himself — may not testify.

Rewald's attorneys filed a motion Monday asking that Rewald be allowed to take the stand and talk about the contents of his lengthy affidavit, which has been sealed by the court.

The affidavit, complete with some 90 exhibits, details Rewald's explanation of how he came to be associated with the CIA, how the CIA directed him to set up Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong and what operations he ran for the agency.

Certain parts of the affidavit, which was filed in bankruptcy proceedings, led to Rewald's indictment on perjury charges. Those parts include Rewald's claim that the CIA told him to form Bishop, Baldwin and even helped him pick out the name.

FEDERAL Public Defender Michael Levine said in his motion that it would be unfair and misleading to the jury if Rewald is not allowed to elaborate on each of the events in the affidavit.

"Should the court deny the defendant's motions, the defendant

will refuse to testify on his own behalf," Levine wrote.

U.S. Judge Harold Fong, however, already has indicated he does not want all of the material in the affidavit to become evidence in the trial. The judge denied a previous Rewald motion to admit the affidavit itself into evidence.

Fong has limited the amount of CIA evidence admitted by the defense to that showing that the agency controlled or managed investors' money. Rewald's attorneys have been frustrated in bringing in evidence of Rewald's voluntary CIA activities.

MEANWHILE, Rewald's attorneys yesterday also were fighting to put another witness on the stand to bolster their case. He is Ralph McGhee, a retired CIA agent who now lectures, writes and testifies on CIA matters.

Levine wants McGhee to be allowed to testify as an expert about CIA records, terminology and activities.

Theodore Greenberg, one of the four federal prosecutors, called McGhee a "hack" who makes his name testifying as a defense witness in cases involving the CIA.

Both Levine and Greenberg yesterday questioned McGhee outside of the presence of the jury, as part of the defense attempt to have McGhee certified as an expert. The questioning was to continue today.